Performance in International Athletic meets

714. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that our lackluster performance in international athletics meets is due to factors like lack of continuity of trianing, our coaches being handicapped because of lack of knowledge upgradation, indifferent attitude of sports bodies on initiating actions against deug offenders etc; and

(b) if so, whether any concerted approach is being adopted to overcome these obstacles, and if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) According to information made available by the Amateur Athletic Federation of India, the performance of Indian athletes in International Athletic meets has not been lackluster. Infact, the performance of Indian Athletes in various international events has been encouraging. India won two medals (1 silver and 1 bronze) in Women Section in the Commonwealth Games held in Manchester in 2002, for the first time ever.

Similarly, in the Busan Asian Games 2002 Indian athletes finished 2nd after China in athletic medal tally and won 7 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 bronze medals. Out of total 11 Gold Medals won by India in the Asian Games, 7 Gold medals were won by athletes only and two athletes set new Asian Games records during the Games.

Moreover, the second string of Indian athletes, who were sent for Asian Championship held in Colombo in August, 2002, won 10 medals (1 Gold, 5 Silver & 4 Bronze). Similarly, Indian Junior Athletic teamwon 14 medals (2 Gold, 4 Silver and 8 Bronze) in Asian Junior championship held at Bangkok in October, 2002. In World Junior Athletic championship held at Kingston (Jamaica) in July, 2002, one athlete won a bronze medal and the others two figured in the best 8.

(b) However, to further improve the level of performance of our athletes following measures are being taken:

1. Foreign Coaches are being engaged.

2. Athletes are being sent abroad for training under foreign coaches.

3. Indian athletic teams are being sent abroad to participate in international tournaments.

4. The help of Sports Scientists is being taken to improve the performance of our athletes.

WADA Sanctions

715. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) in the wake of recent incidences of dope cases involving Indian athletes/sportsmen in large numbers, what corrective steps have been taken by the Indian Olympic Association/Government;

(b) whether India is a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Agency declaration and if so, whether India has cleared its past and present membership dues to WADA; and

(c) wheher it is a fact that WADA's sanctions against erring member country would deny the country the right to carry the National flag on Olypic ceremories and non-playing of National Anthem for the winning athlete/team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Indian Olypic Associations and National Sports Federation are primarily the action taking authorities against sportspersons found guilty of a doping offence. However, the Government of India, through Sports Authority of India has made serious efforts to keep away sports persons from use of any kind of prohibited drugs. During the coaching camps, strict instructions have been issued to the coaches attached with the campers to educate and regularly counsel and players about the banned drugs. Apart from this,the sports medicine doctors at NS NIS< Patiala and other regional centres conduct lecture, wherever camps are being held, to educate the players not to use any banned drugs. At the time of commencement of the camp, each player is being provided with documents and brochures about the banned substances. The list of banned drugs and placards for education of players are put in the rooms of campers. Rooms and belongings of players are also searched and checked at regular intervals to see that no banned drugs are used besides testing the urine samples of sports persons during